

upon the English Municipal Reform Bill as a basis. His triumphant and able career in the House of Lords. Jealousy of Peel. Lyndhurst determines to accept the Premiership if offered, having received hints from Windsor. His plan to make Brougham Chancellor — to demand from his party 10 seats in the Commons, which were to be given to 10 young men whom he should select. I was one, Bickham Escott another, Thesiger a third. The Commons to be led by Sir James Graham, whom he had sounded, and Sir William T. Tollett, in whom he had great confidence. Peel came up from Drayton and threw him over, and a party in the Lords, led by Wharnccliffe, frightened at not being supported in the Commons, receded from their engagement at a meeting at Apsley House at the end of August or beginning of September.

The Duke of Wellington would have been firm in spite of Peel and accepted office if Wharnccliffe and his friends had not seceded. The secession was only private. L.'s final speech at the close of the business, and Brougham's complimentary oration to him, surprised everybody, but the truth is there was an understanding between B. and L. After the debates they generally went home together, and once B. said: 'You and I, Lyndhurst, can rule this country if we like.' Before L.'s final speech B. took him aside and shook hands with him with great feeling and said: 'Let us embrace. We are both Ex-Chancellors and have both been thrown over by our party.'

The consequence of Peel's conduct was the inevitable demonstration apparently in favour of the Whigs by the corporation elections in November. This alone saved the Cabinet. They had become so unpopular in the country, and the House of Lords had so rallied, even in spite of Peel, and had done so much that in the autumn all the elections went against the Whigs. Ten days or so before the municipal elections was the death of Lord Milton and the Northamptonshire election. The blow was so great that I heard from a good authority that the Ministers did not intend to meet Parliament.

*To Sarah Disraeli.*

July 20,  
1835.

Nothing has been talked of but the great fancy ball which came off last night, and exceeded in splendor anything ever known in London. My dress was very good, with some

Sgt. W. Smith, 11th Regt. A. M. Ken. S. M. R. with long sleeves. Yes  
Bulwer, myself, Massey D'Orsay, Henry